

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Susan DeSack, Chairperson was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley, and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook was absent.

ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Audience Member Ann Peters inquired about the timeline to repair the steps near the art room at the senior high school. Director of Administration Robert Ross said that the steps are part of this summer's Phase II projects. The steps will be repaired in time for the opening of school in the fall.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to move up agenda item, IV. C. Local Advisory Committee Update. Seconded by Member Rafanelli. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Local Advisory Committee Update – Local Advisory Committee, (LAC) Chairperson Mary Beth Cournoyer gave the annual LAC on Special Education Report of by-laws and activities. She reported that the LAC has opted not to change the by-laws and to stay with a leadership committee. The by-laws document was then passed around for each School Committee members' signature of approval. Ms. Cournoyer said that she will contact Chair DeSack to obtain her signature. Anne Peters commented regarding the retirement of Principal Boulé. She said that Ms. Boulé has set high standards for all of her students, clearly respecting the distinct gifts that each brings to the district. The LAC thanks her for her support to each and every diverse learner. It will be hard to replace her. Ms. Peter then said the LAC would like to suggest that as the School Committee moves forward with the issue of layoffs, to consider if there is any place in the discussion to look at some way of weighting the professional development, (PD) that some teachers obtain regarding special education students.

Special Education Presentation – Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar and Assistant Director Gwenn Spence gave an overview of a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the programs,

achievements, future goals, and roles and responsibilities of the Special Education Department. Ms. Farrar spoke briefly about the two ALP programs at Metcalf School and the Senior High School. She advised that at one point there may be a need to form an ALP program at Wawaloam School as well. She said that

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

she would like to hire a Behavior Specialist at the Jr. High School level, which will be funded through a grant. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA) stimulus funding will be used next year toward the English Language Learners, (ELL) program and outside mental health agencies. Ms. Farrar touched upon the State Performance Plan, a guide for ensuring compliance and progress for special education students. She said that a corrected action plan has been submitted to address effectiveness of compliance and performance indicators 8, 11, and 14. In closing, Ms. Farrar pointed out that the accomplishments of regular education students are seen on a regular basis. However, a lot of the time the accomplishments of special education students are not seen. She presented a 6th grade ALP student's poem that was entered into the International Association of Reading poetry contest. The poem has been selected to go into the Association's twelfth poetry anthology. Ms. Farrar said that this was a major accomplishment for this young student and expressed how very proud the special education department is that this young person was able to achieve this.

Make a Wish

By: Jewelyona Sylvia

My wishes are

A home with family

Kittens

Everyone to be happy

A chance to start my life over

Way more protection on animals

Infinity dollars to feed the poor & protect animals

Social security to work with DCYF & give everyone a family

Homes for the homeless

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He referenced item, 3. a. and said that Mrs. Meehan will be greatly missed. The district wishes her well and appreciates her years of service. In reference to item 8. Recalls, he explained this is an initial list of recalls for teachers and more are forthcoming. There are plans for a job fair on Tuesday after which there will be additional recalls.

Clerk Coutcher requested to pull consent agenda items, V. B. 7. and

8. for discussion.

Member Bollengier requested to pull consent agenda item, V. C. Bills for discussion.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda with items, V.B. 7. and 8. and

V. C. pulled. Seconded by Member Rafanelli. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of May 26, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of April 14, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of April 28, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of May 26, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Request from Kristen Marx for a leave of absence, without pay, from her position as .8 FTE School Psychologist at Metcalf School for the 2009/10 school year

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

- a. Letter of Resignation from Florence Meehan, for the purpose of Retirement, from her position as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Building Clerk, effective June 26, 2009
- b. Letter of Resignation from Michael Dias, Jr. from his position as Assistant Senior High School Boys' Soccer Coach, effective on June 10, 2009

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals – Council 94

6. Non-Renewals

7. Recalls – Council 94

- a. Item pulled

8. Recalls

- a. Item Pulled

9. Sabbaticals

C. Item Pulled

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Members did not express any questions, concerns, or comments regarding Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) June 2, 2009 Letter/Correspondence from Attorney Brad Gorham Regarding Public Law 1965

Budget Discussion/Charter Discussion/Workshop – Dr. Geismar said that it is his understanding that the one-year charter amendment

proposal did not pass at last night's Exeter Financial Meeting. He reported that he has met with the principals and union representatives to work on staffing. He referenced packet enclosure, Athletic Budget – Proposed Savings and said that he met with Athletic Director Steve McGrane and with booster representatives. The savings shown are based upon concessions with teachers,

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

which will be discussed during tonight's executive session. Mr. McGrane plans to meet with all coaches in the near future regarding fundraising. Clubs are also part of the concessions as well. If stipends are lowered, the district can save a significant amount of money. The recent talks with union representatives have resulted in concessions totaling approximately \$150,000 in savings, more or less. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said that his proposed recommendation for recalls this evening is not unreasonable or undoable. The district needs to staff, move forward, and plan for next school year. There are approximately an additional ten recalls that will be brought forward at the next meeting. Dr. Geismar addressed Clerk Coutcher's comments regarding recalls and uncertainties surrounding state funding. Vice Chair Cicero suggested e-mailing parents and posting information on the district website to notify parents that the sports program is not guaranteed for next year. Clerk Coutcher said that the district is looking at a \$150,000 shortfall for sports for next year. He expressed his opinion

that he does not think it is possible to fundraise that amount at this point in time. Dr. Geismar expressed that he feels better things are coming. The federal government is involved right now. Stabilizing money will force maintenance of effort where the state will not be able to do a 20% cut in state aid.

In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross said the increasing deficit this year in benefits is because folks can make decisions about their health care, and there has been a migration of coverage into the district due to spouses losing their jobs in these economic times.

Monthly Budget Projection 2008 – 2009 – Vice Chair Cicero noted that this item was covered during the previous agenda item discussion.

Status Reports – Superintendent – Superintendent Geismar and Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley answered Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding the Superintendent's Status Report information that Metcalf School has not made AYP after all and is in a category called "caution". Ms. Daley explained that Metcalf missed AYP by a very small margin. Of the 17 indicators that need to be met, Metcalf missed one in ELA in the special education category by less than one-tenth of a percent, and less than one-tenth of a percent in math. This could ultimately in the end be the result of how just one student did. In response to Member Walsh's inquiry regarding Dr. Geismar's mention that the Green Charter School will be approved to open in 2010, Mr.

Ross said that the opening is contingent upon funding. Dr. Geismar said that he is concerned that if EWG loses students to the Green School it could impact the district.

Business

Curriculum

Maintenance

Technology

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Clerk Coutcher moved to move up agenda item, VI. H. Appointments for Graduation Requirements Review Board. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – Appointments for Graduation Requirements Review Board – Vice Chair Cicero said that she and Clerk Coutcher requested to put this item on the agenda. At the direction of Chair DeSack, a subcommittee shall be formed tonight to address concerns and review the entire process surrounding Graduation Requirements.

Vice Chair Cicero said that she and Clerk Coutcher are interested in serving on the committee. Member Zuercher said that she would be interested in serving on the committee as well. Member Bollengier expressed his concern that a committee is being formed and there has been no information brought to the entire School Committee

explaining what is going on and why it is perceived that there is a problem. He expressed his opinion that prior to forming a committee; a presentation should be brought to the School Committee.

Clerk Coutcher left the meeting at this time, 8:30 p.m.

Member Bollengier pointed out that the School Committee packets did not contain any information regarding this matter. The School Committee does not know what the charge of the committee is. No one has explained the concerns. He said that if asked to vote, he would vote against because he is of the opinion that this process is being done backwards. Vice Chair Cicero advised that Chair DeSack gave the direction to form the committee. The School Committee was not part of the process when Senior Project was put together two-years ago, and the School Committee was supposed to be on the advisory committee. Member Bollengier gave his opinion that there is a danger here of micromanaging that he wants to avoid. The building principal at the high school runs the high school. It is not the job of the School Committee to tell her how to run the high school. He said that he agrees that under the statute, the School Committee makes final decisions, but you need to let the people in charge put the programs in place and then let the School Committee review and evaluate the programs. There has been no review, no evaluation, and no discussion at the School Committee level, and now a proposal to do something to change programs in place has been brought forward. Vice Chair Cicero emphasized that change is not being

proposed. This is a learning process and review about the process that is in place right now.

Clerk Coutcher returned to the meeting at this time, 8:34 p.m.

In response to Member Bollengier's request, Vice Chair Cicero said that the charge of the committee is to sit down with the design team, to sit down with parents, and to extract information on what is happening right now. She noted that there are also cost factors involved here. Vice Chair Cicero said that she would have come prepared to present tonight, however, Chair DeSack requested that a committee be formed tonight and to then go forward. Member Walsh recommended tabling this item until the next meeting. She

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

voiced many of the same concerns that Member Bollengier stated. Following a discussion surrounding whether or not there is an urgency to form the committee immediately, and after taking comments from audience members, consensus of the School Committee was to schedule a Workshop on July 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The productive workshop will focus on Senior Project. The School Improvement Team, students, and design team shall be invited to attend and present.

Fire Alarm Testing Bid Award – Director of Administration Robert

Ross gave a brief explanation regarding his bid recommendations, and answered Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding the rubbish removal bid.

Fire Extinguisher Testing Bid Award –

Septic System Pumping Bid Award –

Rubbish Removal Bid Award –

Storm Drain Cleaning Bid Award –

Elevator Inspection & Maintenance Bid Award –

Boiler Cleaning & Repair Bid Award –

Member Bollengier moved the bid approvals on each of the individual items - Fire Alarm Testing, Fire Extinguisher Testing, Septic System Pumping, Rubbish Removal, Storm Drain Cleaning, Elevator Inspection and Maintenance, and Boiler Cleaning and Repair based on the recommendations set out in bold by the Director of Administration. Seconded by Member Zuercher. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8517: Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices—Permitted and Prohibited Possession and Use – 2nd Reading – Members discussed the clarity of policy language on page 2 regarding cell phones or other personal electronics use during participation in extracurricular activities and whether or not extracurricular activities includes dances, clubs, and sporting practices. Members briefly discussed which policy the consequences for posting video on UTUBE should

be written. In the end, consensus was that consequences shall be addressed in a separate policy from #8517.

Member Bollengier made a motion to table further discussion on policy # 8517 and to send it back to the policy subcommittee for further consideration, in light of the members' comments this evening. Seconded by Member Rafanelli. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

High School Principal Selection Committee Appointments – Vice Chair Cicero said there are four parents who have expressed an interest in serving on the high school principal selection committee. One is ineligible to serve because she lives out of town therefore shall be crossed off the list. Vice Chair Cicero asked if members wish to select all three parents, Stacy Sheehan of Exeter, and Cindy Walsh and Pietro Petrarca of West Greenwich to the selection committee. Member Zuercher expressed her opinion that it is

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7

a good idea to select all three. Member Bollengier suggested in order to balance between the two communities that a second parent from Exeter should be selected. Audience member Cindy Walsh said that Sharon Pelser, Exeter has expressed interest.

Member Bollengier said that he nominates Sharon Pelser. And Member Walsh seconded. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

Superintendent Geismar emphasized that this is a lot of work and the search committee will need to meet several times. Vice Chair Cicero said that Chair DeSack had suggested the search committee might want to use NESDEC recruitment services. Mr. Ross advised that NESDEC is expensive and could cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Superintendent Geismar recommended that the selection committee should meet to review the applications submitted. If in the end a candidate is not selected, the district should then re-advertise.

Kindergarten Enrollment – Dr. Geismar said that there are no changes to report at this time.

Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that bids will be opened this Friday and awarded on Monday. The Capital Project Building Committee will meet on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Vice Chair Cicero reverted to items pulled from the consent agenda.

In reference to pulled consent agenda items, V. B. 7 and 8, Clerk Coutcher asked if at the end of August there is still a shortfall of \$150,000 for sports next year, will the School Committee have the ability to eliminate one or two positions to free up the money for sports? Clerk Coutcher said that he wants the School Committee to

have that ability rather than getting to the point where parents will need to be told over the summer that there will be no sports next school year because they were told at the District Financial Meeting, (DFM) that there would be sports next year. Superintendent Geismar responded that a lot has already been cut. The district is already in jeopardy with the contract with one of the cuts at the junior high. He said that at this point he cannot say that there will more positions to cut. Moreover, he does not see that the District will be able to run the educational program if more is cut. He anticipates the concessions update that members will receive in tonight's Executive Session may offer a better comfort level. Clerk Coutcher commented that he believes that parents at the DFM are under the impression that sports were saved for next year. Mr. Ross offered information relating to Council-94 CBA language regarding recalls, reassignments, layoffs, and management rights. Dr. Geismar pointed out that there have been many retirements that will allow for some breakage.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 8

In reference to pulled consent agenda item, V. C. Bills, Member Bollengier referenced Lincoln Energy – repair to air conditioner at the junior – senior high school and asked if the air conditioner is part of the Capital Project Building Committee, (CPBC) Phase II discussion. Mr. Ross advised that the CPBC discussed changing, however, decided to go with window bangers and to keep the existing.

Member Bollengier moved to accept consent agenda items, V. B. 7 and 8 and V. C. Bills. Seconded by Member Zuercher. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

B. Personnel Items

7. Recalls – Council 94 – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Please see attached list

8. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Please see attached list

C. Bills – In the amount of \$132,668.87

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –Friday, June 12, 2009-Graduation; Thursday, June 18, 2009-Jr. High moving Up Ceremony; Friday, June 19, 2009-Last Day of School; Tuesday, June 23, 2009-School Committee Meeting-(Facilities Presentation)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(9) – CBA – Grievance(s), and 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – Negotiation Discussion, and 42-46-5 (2) CBA - Pending Litigation and 42-46-5 (a)(1) - Personnel. Seconded Member Zuercher. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

Member Bollengier moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:05 p.m.

There were no votes was taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Walsh moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 10:05 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK